

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 L-03 IO-13 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 CEQ-01 INT-05 SMI-01 DODE-00 EUR-12
EB-08 AID-05 PA-01 USIA-06 /083 W
-----015721 171053Z /17
R 162218Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9174

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV EFIS IWC-1, PE
SUBJ: WHALE CONSERVATION MEASURES: PERU

REF: STATE 60284

1. ECON OFF MARCH 14 DISCUSSED CONTENTS OF REFTEL WITH HECTOR CABADA, FOREIGN MINISTRY MARITIME SOVEREIGNTY OFFICER. IN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM WITHIN GOP TOWARD DECISION IN FAVOR OF JOINING IWC, ECON OFF EMPHASIZED AS PER PARA 1 REFTEL THAT USG WAS WILLING TO HELP PERU TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE IN RELATION TO IWC MEMBERSHIP. CABADA APPEARED ATTRACTED TO IDEA OF US OBSERVER AND POSSIBLE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND SAID HE WOULD CONSULT ON THIS MATTER WITH FISHERIES MINISTRY OFFICIALS. HE SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED TO ECON OFF THAT FISHERIES MINISTRY'S PRELIMINARY REACTION TO IDEA OF US ASSISTANCE WAS FAVORABLE. CABADA SAID THAT HE (OR HIS SUCCESSOR - CABADA LEAVES MARCH 18 FOR NEW ASSIGNMENT AT PERU'S UN MISSION) WOULD REPORT BACK MORE FULLY AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH FISHERIES MINISTRY.

2. WITH RESPECT TO INABILITY OF USG TO GIVE ASSURANCES TO SUPPORT QUOTAS WHICH GOP DESIRES FOR SPERM AND BRYDE'S
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WHALES, CABADA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD USG POSITION, BUT HE REPEATED GOP HOPE THAT USG MIGHT SUPPORT PERU'S PROPOSAL THAT IT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE CATCHING WHALES AT LEVELS ABOVE IWC QUOTAS DURING AN INTERIM PERIOD WHILE MORE DEFINITIVE STUDIES ON WHALE POPULATIONS ARE MADE. ECON OFF TRIED TO DISABUSE CABADA OF IDEA THAT USG MIGHT SUPPORT QUOTAS ABOVE THOSE RECOMMENDED BY IWC SCIENTIFIC

COMMITTEE.

3. DURING DISCUSSION WITH CABADA ECON OFF ALSO STRESSED POINTS OF PARA 3 AND 5 REFTEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PERU PROVIDE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WITH ANY AVAILABLE DATA ON BRYDE'S WHALES AND THAT PERUVIAN SCIENTIST ATTEND NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING.

4. FISHERIES MINISTRY THIS WEEK HAS MADE PUBLIC FOLLOWING DATA ON WHALE CATCHES IN PERU DURING 1967-77 PERIOD.

SEASON	SPERM WHALES	SEI AND BRYDE'S WHALES	TOTAL
67-68	1057	308	1365
68-69	1484	661	2145
69-70	1506	575	2081
70-71	924	507	1431
71-72	1709	359	2097
72-73	1672	281	1953
73-74	1184	428	1612
74-75	1006	552	1962
75-76	1261	592	1853
76-77	1140	368	1508

AVERAGE

67-77	1300	470	1770
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DATA ON WHALE CATCH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ARTICLE IN GOP CONTROLLED PRESS PRAISING GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO RESTRICT 1977-78 WHALE CATCH (OF SPERM AND BRYDE'S WHALES) TO FIGURE 30 0/0 LESS THAN AVERAGE ANNUAL CATCH OVER LAST 10 YEARS.

5. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS THROUGH CONTROLLED PRESS TO SHOW THAT GOP IS WHALE CONSERVATION MINDED IS REACTION TO PUBLIC PRESSURE FROM LOCAL CONSERVATION GROUPS, MOST NOTABLE PRODENA, THE LOCAL CHAPTER OF WORLD WILDLIFE FUND. PRODENA'S PRESIDENT IS FELIPE BENAVIDES, RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN PAUL GETTY AWARD FOR CONSERVATION, WHO IS RESPECTED IN PERU FOR HIS EFFORTS IN SAVING THE VICUNA. WE BELIEVE BENAVIDES' EFFORTS TO PUBLICIZE PLIGHT OF WHALES IN PERU COMBINED WITH USG REPRESENTATIONS ON THE SUBJECT, HAS BEEN IMPORTANT REASON FOR GOP TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO JOINING IWC.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF US ASSISTANCE WITH PERUVIANS, WE WOULD

APPRECIATE RECEIVING MORE INFORMATION REGARDING TYPE OF
ASSISTANCE CONTEMPLATED IN PARA 1 REFTEL.
SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHALES, CONSERVATION, MEMBERSHIP, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIMA02322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780119-0059
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780361/aaaabzim.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 60284
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3311503
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHALE CONSERVATION MEASURES: PERU
TAGS: SENV, EFIS, PORG, PE, US, IWC-1
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ee1e4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014